

Exchange With Reporters on Departure for Chicago, Illinois

January 22, 1997

16th Street Explosion

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—the explosion near the abortion clinic this morning—any thoughts on that?*

The President. Let me say that we do not yet have all the facts involving the incidents this morning. But Federal officials are working with the local law enforcement officials to get to the bottom of this. I want to emphasize again, as I had to do just a few days ago, that acts of violence against people who are trying to exercise their constitutional rights are acts of terror. They are illegal. They are wrong. And we will do our very best to investigate them, to catch who is doing it, and to make sure they're punished. But as to the incidents this morning, we are still investigating them. The facts are unfolding. Whatever happened, there is never an excuse for an act of violence against someone exercising a constitutional right.

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—at the Mayflower, Mr. President?*

The President. We're on top of the situation, I believe. We're doing our very best. And obviously I'm concerned about the safety of anybody involved that might be subject to that sort of thing. But the investigators are there, and we're working hard on it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:14 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks at Stanley Field Middle School in Northbrook, Illinois

January 22, 1997

The President. I was just thinking, if I had had a class like this when I was their age, I might have gotten into a different line of work. [*Laughter*] This is fascinating. Thank you very much, guys. I'm glad you learned about Newton's law of doing this, and I'm glad you learned how to do this.

I just thought of something—you should know too, one of you made the point about conservation of materials. Interestingly enough, in many manufacturing enterprises

today, that's one of the major sources of adding productivity and profitability to the enterprise. Being environmentally responsible is just learning how to continue to get more and more and more output out of fewer and fewer raw materials. And that applies not only to stable materials like that but also to energy input. So a big part of what technology and learning is doing to all kinds of production is allowing people to produce more output of products and services with fewer material input. Very interesting, so I'm glad you did it.

[*At this point, Secretary of Education Richard Riley commented on the standards in education and then the students continued their demonstration.*]

The President. The one thing I would say to you—we have to go, but you are going to live in the most exciting period of time in human history, in terms of what people can do with their minds and their imaginations and what people can do on their own. It's going to be a very, very exciting time. But it will only be an exciting time for people who can access it. That's why the learning is so important.

Someday you may be building—one of you may be building trains that go 500 miles an hour, that people get in, and therefore, then, they don't pollute the air. And they all travel together so they can read while they're studying during their commute times. You may be doing things you can't even imagine now because of what you're learning.

And that's the thing I would emphasize. You can't imagine what someday you might be doing with what you're just now learning here. And I envy you in that way. I think that the 21st century will be a time of enormous possibility for young people like you, and all you really need to tap it is a great education. And I'm glad you're getting it.

Thank you.

Q. I know they can do it. Well, thank you so much. We're very pleased to have you come.

The President. I'm glad to see you. Thank you.

Q. Thank you for coming.

The President. I wish I could see all the cars driving. What you should do, you should